

## Minutes

### Easton Energy Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Town Hall Conference Room A, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Carroll Brooke, Katie Callahan

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:35.

Minutes briefly discussed. Motion to approve: Katie. Second: Carroll.  
Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Request to Selectmen to change TF name/update on solar:**

July 7 Cathy attended the Board of Selectmen meeting. Approval to change the TF name to Easton Energy Task Force was sought and approved.

Board of Selectmen requested an update on how the town is doing towards reaching the pledged goals to reduce energy consumption. Cathy discussed using Portfolio Manager data to present at a future meeting.

Task Force discussed what kind of presentation we want to bring to the BoS meeting; suggestions included the following:

- Energy consumption and reduction over the past 4 years
- Renewables update
- Upcoming projects and goals for the TF

Discussed whether there would be a benefit in presenting to the Board of Finance as well.

#### **Solar:**

Carroll handed out a chart that shows billing from UI comparing 2015 and 16 so far, generated kWh month to month from the solar array and actual energy needed beyond that supplied by the array. The data clearly shows a reduction in UI usage as well as the corresponding increase in solar energy generated for the school.

Carroll explained some of the variation in the UI bill, in particular that which concerns the peak usage periods, where the cost per kW increases dramatically. In a recent bill he was pointing out that these charges are a significant portion of the bill.

Finding and analyzing these fees will save money for the town by doing something called "peak shaving" whereby peak periods of usage are identified and then controlled to avoid sudden increases. The amount of the peak is what determines the increase in the cost, so it makes sense to keep peaks to a minimum.

Carroll also discussed some information about zones and the TF questioned whether there is anyone looking at the Building Management system and if oversight exists to update the software. Questioned if Honeywell is still on contract to update and monitor software.

Solar on the whole is operating very well and saving money for the town.

**Green Spotlight updates:**

There will be an event and a plaque to celebrate the Energy Star Certification for the SSES building; Cathy has said that this will make an ideal submission for the September Green Spotlight.

Katie will do the wish list for Aquarion for the following month (October).

**Portfolio Manager update:**

Cathy reported that automatically generated updates for Portfolio Manager should be available in the coming months.

Also that Janet Haller attended a workshop on using Portfolio Manager; she learned that Easton is one of 2 towns to have fully implemented PM to date. As a result, Janet was asked to share with the workshop our town's experience with Portfolio Manager for energy usage.

**Other next steps:**

Carroll suggested we re-visit Helen Keller by having a conversation with Jeff Parker, and maybe move forward with implementation of suggestions from the audit. Cathy will address this in an email to Jeff.

Carroll spoke briefly about Barlow, but there is no news on willingness to move on solar yet. Carroll may go to the next Region 9 BoE meeting.

Katie motioned to adjourn. Heidi seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Armster  
August 16, 2016